

REMARKS

Claims 10-29 are pending in the application. In an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended claims 10, 17 and 23. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

Claims 10-12, 14, and 17-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,839,902 (Wood). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and requests reconsideration because nothing in Wood discloses (or renders obvious) the novel (and unobvious) method and article of manufacture recited in the rejected claims.

In particular, nothing in Wood discloses the unique “method of conducting an interview of at least one respondent,” as particularly defined in, for example, claim 10. As particularly recited in claim 10, the method includes the steps of “(a) presenting at least one interview question to a respondent; (b) presenting a map using the interview system; and (c) receiving as a response from the respondent an indication of a location-input from the respondent in response to the at least one interview question presented in step (a), wherein the received response is not predetermined by the interview system” (emphasis added).

As described in Applicant’s specification, Applicant’s claimed invention is particularly directed to solving some of the many problems encountered in conducting interviews or surveys where (unknown or not previously determined) responses to questions involve identification of location (e.g., address). Specification at 1:13-2:13. As stated in the specification, such responses to location-based questions in an interview are often inaccurate and have a high non-response rate. Specification at 1:13-15. The causes of these problems include the lack of knowledge by the respondents of the precise address that is responsive to the question and the high likelihood of error and

misspelling of the address in providing the response. Specification at 1:15-20; and 2:7-13.

Nothing in Wood discloses or even suggests the method of conducting an interview of claim 10. On the contrary, Wood is merely directed to a toy that can be used as a teaching device. The toy, shown in Fig. 1, is disclosed for use solely in assisting children to “learn names of various objects, facts, and geography by audible repetition accompanied by visualization of the object and map.” Wood at 1:10-12. In operation, the toy teaching device 10 uses card reader 40 to read object card 42 (Fig. 2) and produce an audio signal representing a question or statement associated with the object on the card 42. As a teaching device, the toy device is preprogrammed with predetermined, known responses to the presented questions or statements to which the input response is to be compared. For example, after one of either a true or false button (20, 21) is selected in response to the prompted question or statement, “the processor 26 compares this selection to the correct selection stored in its memory. If the selection is correct, the processor 26 causes the speaker 29 to produce a signal representing an affirmative acknowledgement.” 4:33-37. See also 5:21-37.

As can easily be seen, nothing in Wood discloses (or suggests) that the child teaching device can be used to conduct an “interview,” as specifically recited in Applicant’s claim 10. As properly construed (and explicitly claimed) therefore the term “interview” requires that the questions presented are intended to obtain or receive information which is not predefined, predetermined, or previously known by the person or entity conducting the “interview.” Applicant’s invention of claim 10, for example, explicitly recites: “wherein the received response is not predetermined by the interview system.” Indeed, if the location responsive to the question presented was already known by the person conducting the interview, there would be no need for the method provided by Applicant’s invention.

Thus, the mere disclosure by Wood of a system in which questions are presented (i.e., using button 21) that prompt a child to compare its knowledge of the subject matter with the predetermined and stored correct selection does not show that the teaching device is intended for use in a method of conducting an interview, as required in Applicant's claim 10. For this reason alone, the rejection of claim 10 is in error and should be withdrawn.

As claims 11, 12 and 14 depend on claim 10 and, thus, incorporate all of the unique features discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 11, 12 and 14 should also be reconsidered and withdrawn for the same reasons given above with respect to claim 10.

Claims 17-19 are directed to an article of manufacture "for use in conducting an interview and providing accurate location responses to interview questions, . . . wherein the location response is not predetermined" (emphasis added). As noted above, nothing in Wood discloses (or renders obvious) such a system, particularly one that can be used in an interview session to receive responses which are not predetermined. Accordingly, Applicant's invention as recited in claims 17-19 is novel (and unobvious) over Wood. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 17-19 for the same reasons given above with respect to claims 10-12 and 14.

Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Wood and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,638,523 (Mullet et al.). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and requests reconsideration in view of the following.

Wood is relied upon in the Office Action for the same disclosure as in the rejection of claims 10-12, 14 and 17-19, as discussed above. The Office Action admits that Wood “fail[s] to show the receiving, as the input region, a proximate area having a circular shape surrounding a point on the map presented as recited in claim 13.” Office Action at 4. The Office Action merely relies on Mullet et al. to supply this missing teaching. The Office Action, however, does not rely on Mullet et al. to cure the deficiencies of Wood as noted above with respect to claims 10-12, 14 and 17-19. As nothing in Mullet et al. teaches the modification of Wood to be used for conducting an “interview” to receive a “location response [that] is not predetermined,” as particularly required in claim 13, neither Wood nor Mullet et al., taken alone or in combination, would have rendered obvious the invention as recited in Applicant’s claim 13. Applicant respectfully requests therefore that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 15, 16, 20-25 and 27-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Wood and further in view of the article Drummond, “Address Matching, GIS Technology for Mapping Human Activity Patterns,” American Planning Association, Journal of the American Planning Association (Spring 1995), pp. 240-251 (Drummond). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and requests reconsideration in view of the following.

In making these rejections, the Office Action again fails to recognize that Wood does not and cannot be used to conduct an “interview” to receive a “location response [that] is not predetermined,” as required in Applicant’s claimed invention. Here, claims 15 and 16 depend (indirectly) from claim 10 and claims 20-22 depend from claim 17. As noted above, claims 10 and 17 are both directed to conducting an “interview” to receive a “location response [that] is not predetermined.” Similarly, claims 23-25, 27 and 28 are all directed to “a system for providing accurate responses to

location questions posed during the administration of a computer assisted self interview, . . . wherein the input location received by the respondent is not determined by the system in advance.” The Office Action admits that Wood “fail[s] to show a latitude/longitude determination and proximate area detection as recited in the claims.” Office Action at 5.

The Office Action relies on Drummond for its teaching of “latitude and longitude of the location-input . . . as in claim 15, [and] proximate area based on the indication of the location-input received . . . as in claims 16 and 20.” Office Action at 5-6.

Nothing in Drummond, however, is (nor can be) relied upon to cure the deficiencies of Wood as discussed above with respect to claims 10-12, 14 and 17-19. As nothing in Wood or Drummond, taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the modification of the toy interactive teaching device of Wood to be used in conducting an interview to receive a location response which is not predetermined or otherwise known to the system in advance, as required in claims 15, 16, 20-25, 27 and 28, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections are in error and should be withdrawn.

Claim 26 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Wood and Drummond, and further in view of Mullet et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and requests reconsideration because nothing in Mullet et al. overcomes the deficiencies of Wood and Drummond, as discussed above.

The Office Action relies on Mullet et al. for its teaching of “an interactive location geocoding system similar to that of Wood and Drummond. In addition, Mullet

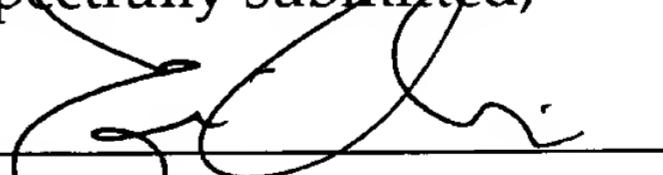
et al. further teaches highlighting, as the input region, a proximate area on the map presented [citation omitted].” Office Action at 8.

As previously discussed, Mullet et al. is not (and cannot) be relied upon to cure the deficiencies of Wood and Drummond with respect to independent claim 23. As claim 26 depends from claim 23, and thus, incorporates all of the novel and unobvious features thereof, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claim 26 is also in error and should be withdrawn for the same reasons given above with respect to claim 23.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 10-29, and asks that the application be passed to issue at the earliest convenience.

Applicant hereby petitions for any additional extension of time which may be necessary to have this Amendment considered. Applicant hereby authorizes the Director to debit our Account No. 04-1073 (under Order No. K1625.0002/P002-A) for any fees deemed necessary for that purpose.

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